

# Our History

## THE STORY OF HOME

### 1960s

#### The Need

In the late 1960s, the City of Edmonton determined that there was a need for housing that offered affordable rental rates to low income families. The Edmonton Community Housing Organization (ECHO) was established to begin discussions with the federal and provincial governments on making use of funding available through the National Housing Act (NHA). It was decided to scatter NHA housing units through the neighbourhoods of Edmonton.

#### The Agreement

The decision resulted in an agreement between the two senior orders of government for the development of the New Delton I & II housing projects. Cost sharing for the development was 75 per cent from the federal government for capital costs and ongoing operating costs, the remaining 25 per cent from the province and 10 per cent of the province's 25 per cent from the City of Edmonton.

Public Housing was under construction in Edmonton. A total of nine housing projects were to be built and would provide 416 housing units. These were designed, constructed and owned by the federal government.

### 1970s

#### The Model and Establishment

A model used in other municipalities, called Housing Authorities (responsible for the management of these housing units once constructed) was implemented in Edmonton.

The Edmonton Housing Authority (EHA) was established by provincial ministerial order in 1970 to manage residential property on behalf of three orders of government: federal, provincial and municipal (City of Edmonton).

During construction of the first nine projects, the City of Edmonton decided they would like to take a more active role in the ownership, design, construction and location of any future housing projects.

Over the next few years the City of Edmonton began developing public housing on its own and 13 projects (1,031 units) were constructed; still using the same 75/25 cost sharing. Management agreements were signed with the City and EHA for each project.

#### Municipal and Provincial Involvement

In the mid-1970s, the province of Alberta decided it wanted more control over the development of public housing in the province and negotiated an agreement with the federal government to change the cost sharing to 50 (federal)/40 (provincial)/10 (municipal).

Over the period of 1975 to 1983, the province developed 86 housing projects (2,964 units) with management being contracted to EHA.

### 1990s

#### The Alberta Housing Act

In 1994, EHA entered into a contractual agreement with the province to act as its agent for the administration of the Private Landlord Rent Supplement Program in the Edmonton region. That program has grown significantly since that time to some 6,000 supplements administered. That same year, the new Alberta Housing Act came into effect. The province made significant changes to the Act, one of which was to dissolve Housing Authorities and create "management bodies" to assume the previous responsibilities of the Authorities. Capital Region Housing (CRH) was established by provincial ministerial order on January 1, 1995 and assumed all the assets and liabilities of EHA.

#### Exploring CRH Owned Housing

In 1995, the Corporation began exploring the possibility of building its own housing units as the orders of government had all but stopped construction of new units.

### 2000s

#### Opportunities for Municipal Control

In 2007, the province decided that the municipalities should be given the affordable housing dollars and the municipalities could determine the local priorities for the fund and enter into contracts with the developers.

### Where are we now?

#### Current Mandate

Our mission is to provide safe and affordable housing. Our core business includes:

- Property management – providing professional housing and asset management for 5,200 homes throughout Edmonton.
- Program administration – providing program administration to applicants, tenants and program funders for social housing and rent subsidies.
- Property development – developing and purchasing housing units to meet the needs for affordable housing in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

We continue implementing innovative solutions to address the need for affordable housing, such as our joint venture model at Pine Creek Manor. This is the first partnership of its kind in Alberta and allows for the integration of affordable rental units into a market housing development.

Over the next 2-3 years, we're building 495 new units for Edmontonians in the Londonderry, Lendrum and Keheewin projects.

Our effort to implement comprehensive affordable housing programs means that over 25,000 people have the opportunity to be in a safe and healthy home that they can afford.